

BOERS AGAIN IN RETREAT.

BOTH SLIPS AWAY FROM ROBERTS DURING THE NIGHT.

Letter Report. That Buller, in New Co-operation with him—Methuen Holding the "Railway" Line at the Renoster River—Barrage of Peace Negotiations.

LONDON, June 14.—The War Office has received the following despatch from Gen. Roberts:

"PORTER, June 13, 9.35 A. M.—Methuen marched to Honing Spruit yesterday and was found all quiet. Methuen is strongly held. Methuen returned to-day to the Renoster River, where the railway is being prepared. "We were engaged all day yesterday with both. The enemy fought with considerable determination and held our cavalry on both flanks. But Ian Hamilton, assisted by the Guards Brigade and the Cape-Carwys division, pushing forward took a hill in front, causing the enemy to retreat to a second position to the eastward. This they are still holding. The enemy is slightly better than the one we have captured."

"The great extent of country which has been covered and the modern conditions of warfare render progress very slow. Details of the casualties have not reached me, but I understand that they are not serious. Further casualties were reported as Lieut. O'Brien and Major Balfour severely wounded."

Another despatch from Gen. Roberts to the War Office is as follows:

"PORTER, June 13, 11 A. M.—The enemy evacuated their strong position during the night and retired to the eastward. Buller's force and mine afforded mutual assistance. Our occupation of Pretoria caused numerous Boers to withdraw from the Renoster River and to the Volksrust made them feel that their rear would shortly be threatened."

The War Office has also received the following despatch from Gen. Buller:

"LAING'S NEE, June 14, 7.50 A. M.—Littletton yesterday received the formal submission of the town and district of Wakkerstroom, which it is believed the enemy have completely evacuated."

LONDON, June 15.—There are still no details from the British side regarding Gen. Roberts' engagement with Commandant-General Botha near Hatherly. It is learned, however, that the Boers repeated their timorous tactics of slipping away at night, again defeating Gen. Roberts' attempts to capture them. It would seem that the burghers are resolved to stand to a point where they would risk capture, but will try to weary the British by constant withdrawals and intermittent resistance.

A Boer story from Machodorp about this engagement says that the burghers fought with the fixed determination of beating the British. They succeeded in driving back Gen. Roberts' right wing for five miles. They bravely stormed the British camp across a plain, and had a hand-to-hand engagement with the cavalry, whom they repulsed with heavy loss. The burghers, according to this report, had only two killed and ten wounded.

Another story from Machodorp admits that the Boers retreated before Gen. Buller at Almonds Nek, but says they inflicted tremendous loss on the British, the first regiment in the attack being annihilated.

Gen. Roberts' two recent references to Gen. Buller and the latter's advance are construed in some quarters as indicating the approaching junction of the two armies.

The Laings Nek tunnel, which was apparently less seriously damaged than was supposed it is expected that the railway from Johannesburg by way of Standerton will soon be working under British control, greatly facilitating the receipt of supplies.

According to Lorenzo Marques reports, President Kruger, who is still at Machodorp, keeps an engine with steam up, attached to his train, ready to run at any moment. He has established a printing plant on the train and is making paper money. There is talk among the Boers again at Lorenzo Marques of negotiations looking for peace having been reopened. Wolmarans, a cousin of the peace delegate now in the United States, has arrived at Lorenzo Marques. He declares that he does not intend to take any further part in the fighting.

A despatch to the Telegraph from Scheepers' Nek, dated June 13, says that the Boers are aggressive along the whole length of the Senekels-Pieterburg line. A strong force menaced Ficksburg on Wednesday and the British outposts retired to the village. The British guns then fired on the burghers, who retreated. The Boers are also active to the westward of Senekel. President Steyn is at Uit Kop with the main laager. His presence doubtless accounts for the activity of the burghers.

BULLER PRETENDS HIS MEN.

Now Now "They Can Go Anywhere"—Laings Nek Tunnel Not Much Damaged.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, June 14.—Buller, reports to the War Office of the capture of the Laings Nek tunnel, Secretary of State for War, says: "Many thanks for your congratulations to the troops which it is my honor and pleasure to command. They can go anywhere."

"The Dorsets who have been unlucky up to this had their chance at Almonds Nek and showed themselves as good as any of the others."

"About 150 yards of each end of the Laings Nek tunnel had been blown in. The debris in large masses and will take a few days to remove. The line otherwise is uninjured and open to the reversing stations and all around to Benfontein."

It was reported some time ago that by an explosion of dynamite and a collision of two locomotives the tunnel had been made practically impassable.

Despatches from Natal say that a sensation has been created there because the authorities have demanded that the Mayor of Ladysmith shall pay several thousand pounds sterling for fuel supplied to the inhabitants during the siege. The Mayor of Ladysmith made himself responsible for this bill in the belief that the claim could never be paid and that the demand which has now been made for payment is regarded as a striking example of red-tapeism.

COALITION MINISTRY PROBABLE.

Mr. John Gordon Spragg Trying to Form a Cabinet in Cape Town.

From THE SUN'S Correspondent at Cape Town. CAPE TOWN, June 14.—Sir John Gordon Spragg, the former Prime Minister of Cape Colony, has been in consultation all morning with Mr. W. P. Schreiner, the Dutch Premier, who has just resigned. Sir John is being requested by Gov. Alfred Milner to form a new ministry. It has been rumored for several days that Sir John Gordon Spragg and Mr. Schreiner would form a coalition ministry, which would deal with the trial of Cape rebels and other questions arising out of the war.

It is expected that Mr. J. Rose-Innes, the former leader of the British ministry in the Cape Parliament, and former Attorney-General Solomon will be members of the new cabinet.

CAPE TOWN, June 14, 4.10 P. M.—Mr. Schreiner and Sir John Gordon Spragg are consulting. Mr. Schreiner's large for the punishment of rebels throws large discretion upon the Attorney-General dividing the ringleaders from the rank and file. He is therefore naturally anxious to secure a moderate Attorney-General.

He holds the key to the position in the Legislative Assembly and has been the main support of Mr. Schreiner. Your correspondent learns that a coalition between the two parties is anxious to have Mr. Rose-Innes or Sir John Gordon Spragg as Attorney-General. This, however, is impossible, as Spragg's followers are not in favor of his return. They may, nevertheless, accept a compromise on Rose-Innes as Attorney-General under Spragg. The negotiations will probably last for some days.

MRS. GLADSTONE DEAD.

Widow of the "Grand Old Man" of England Passes Away at Hawarden.

LONDON, June 14.—Mrs. Gladstone, the widow of William Ewart Gladstone, died at 5.40 o'clock this morning at her home at Hawarden.

In accordance with the arrangement made at the time of Mr. Gladstone's death, the body of Mrs. Gladstone will be buried in Westminster Abbey beside that of her husband. The ceremony, which will be private and simple, will probably take place next Tuesday.

Catherine Gladstone was born at Hawarden, Jan. 6, 1812. She was the elder daughter of Sir Stephen Richard Glynn, Bart., and Mary Glynn, the daughter of Richard, Lord Braybrooke. She married Mr. Gladstone on Jan. 22, 1839, and on the same day her younger son, William, was born. The double wedding was celebrated at Hawarden Castle. Mrs. Gladstone's father died when she was 8 years of age. Her mother died when she was 10. With his death the title became extinct and the estates passed to his elder brother.

When Catherine Glynn was a child the country in the vicinity of Hawarden was distinguished for its beauty. The late George Neville, became the rector of Hawarden soon after Sir Stephen Glynn's death. He was a devoted husband and father. His wife, Catherine, assisted by offering prizes to children who would attend. In that way she was interested in philanthropic work.

With Mr. Gladstone she was instrumental in starting the Newport Market Refuse to the poor. She was also instrumental in finding employment. An industrial school for boys was later made a part of the original institution. When the epidemic of cholera reached England and the east of London was reached Mrs. Gladstone visited the London Hospital. She cared for many of them herself and carried children in her arms to the children who were provided at her own expense outside the hospital. She interested others in the work and raised money for the many orphaned children.

Out of this work grew Mrs. Gladstone's Free Kindergarten. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Free Kindergarten. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Free Kindergarten. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Free Kindergarten.

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PORTO RICO TARIFF VALID.

JUDGE TOWNSEND GOES INTO THE CASE ON THE MERITS.

Treaty of Paris, Which Left Congress to Decide How the Island Shall Be Governed. Valid—We May Hold Territory Without Admitting It as an Integral Part of the Union.

That Porto Rico is still a foreign country, in the meaning of the Tariff act, is decided by District Judge Townsend whose opinion was handed down yesterday in the appeal of the Porto Rico tobacco duty. The opinion is that the Treaty of Paris, which left to Congress the determination of "the civil rights and political status of the territories hereby ceded," is constitutional and means all that it says. If it were not constitutional, Judge Townsend remarks, the way, then Porto Rico would still be a foreign country and duties would be leviable on imports therefrom.

He began by showing that mere conquest, which gives a military title, as against others, does not extend our domestic institutions to the conquered territory. Treaty, after conquest, may do so by express stipulation. In the present case the stipulation was that the island should be governed by the United States.

The appellants urged that the clause of the treaty quoted was either an attempt to grant Congress unconstitutional rights or was "harmless and superfluous" or, in other words, did not mean what the Judge holds, it plainly says; and the act of cession itself effected a complete incorporation of Porto Rico with the United States. Chief Justice Marshall said (American Insurance Co. vs. Canter) of the "usage of the world" respecting ceded territory: "It becomes a part of the nation to which it is annexed, either on the terms stipulated in the treaty of cession or on such as its new master shall impose." "The people of Porto Rico," says Judge Townsend, "instead of being incorporated into the United States, were left to their own devices."

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BENJAMIN MURDER TRIAL.

The Defence Rests Without Calling the Defendant to the Stand.

CANANDAIGUA, N. Y., June 14.—The defence in the Benjamin murder trial rested this afternoon and adjourned until Monday. It had been expected and openly admitted at the beginning of the trial that the defendant would take the stand, and when the last of the medical experts was sworn every body expected to hear A. C. Wade of counsel for defence say: "Howard Curtis Benham may take the stand." Instead of that he said: "The defence rests."

It was said that Benham, after the verdict was rendered, would be taken to the hospital and that he would be kept there until he was able to stand. It was also said that he would be kept there until he was able to stand. It was also said that he would be kept there until he was able to stand.

The defence submitted some very important testimony before resting to-day. Dr. George E. Fell of Buffalo was called to show that the probable cause of death was heart failure superinduced by septic poisoning. He was asked to show that Benham, a frail woman, took sick and died suddenly, and on post mortem examination of the heart, that organ being soft and flabby, would be considered that her death was due to heart failure. He was asked to show that Benham, a frail woman, took sick and died suddenly, and on post mortem examination of the heart, that organ being soft and flabby, would be considered that her death was due to heart failure.

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